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Letter dated 17 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 15 April 2009, addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 14 April 2009 addressed to you by Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

I have the honour to refer to the prospect of talks between the Greek Cypriot administration and Israel regarding the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas in the Eastern Mediterranean. The prospective talks have been prompted by the preliminary deal reached between the Greek Cypriot administration and the energy company named Noble Energy for drilling to be undertaken in the area known as "Block 12", which is within the so-called exclusive economic zone of Cyprus. Block 12 reportedly lies in proximity to an Israeli site, some 90 km from the port of Haifa in Northern Israel, where drilling by Noble Energy has uncovered large amounts of hydrocarbons. In this connection, I would like to bring to your kind attention the following:

It should be recalled, at the outset, that the attempts by the Greek Cypriot administration to create a fait accompli in the Eastern Mediterranean through unilateral acts, such as delimitation of the exclusive economic zone and conducting exploratory surveys or seismic research activities for oil and gas exploration, are nothing new, as already brought to your kind attention in my letters of 2 February 2007 (A/61/727-S/2007/54) and of 26 November 2008 (A/63/574-S/2008/741). As is known, the Greek Cypriot administration signed a maritime delimitation agreement with Egypt as early as 2003 and with Lebanon in 2007, to which both the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey registered their objections with the United Nations, stating that their legitimate rights in the Eastern Mediterranean were being violated. They also objected to the Greek Cypriot side's attempt to adopt a law identifying 13 oil exploration fields around the island of Cyprus and to its call for an international tender for oil exploration in the so-called exclusive economic zone of Cyprus. As already outlined, it is now widely reported in the Greek Cypriot press that despite our objections, the Greek Cypriot administration has taken the further step of preparing for talks with Israel, with a view to signing a maritime delimitation agreement in order to avoid any overlap in the maritime areas referred to hereinbefore.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize, once again, that the Greek Cypriot side's activities regarding the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas in the Eastern Mediterranean before a comprehensive settlement are aimed at prejudging and violating the fundamental rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people, which were the equal co-founding partner in the 1960 Republic of Cyprus and thus have equal rights and say over the natural resources and the sea areas of the island of Cyprus. It should be recalled that the sensitive issue of delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas for Cyprus was an important aspect of the negotiation process under United Nations auspices in 2004. The United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan addressed this subject with the understanding that it is to be determined after a comprehensive political settlement in Cyprus.

Moreover, it must also be noted that the Greek Cypriot administration, purporting to act as if it is the legitimate "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", represents exclusively the Greek Cypriot people and does not have authority to negotiate and conclude agreements, conduct exploratory surveys, pass legislation or grant exploration rights or exploitation licences on behalf of Cyprus as a whole.

I would like to stress that at a time when full-fledged negotiations are ongoing regarding the core issues of a comprehensive settlement, which certainly include the

issue of the maritime jurisdiction areas of the island of Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot agitation to take steps on the matter is part and parcel of chronic attempts by the Greek Cypriot administration to settle the issue outside the negotiation table. These unacceptable and provocative steps, which are oblivious to the rights and interests of Turkish Cypriots not only deepen the gap of confidence between the two sides but could also lead to an escalation of tension between them, thus undermining the chances of a comprehensive settlement on the island. Hence, it is high time that the international community at large and the United Nations in particular urge the Greek Cypriot administration to cease any such activities until the establishment of the new state of affairs in Cyprus.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that the Turkish Cypriot side will continue to take part in the full-fledged negotiations in good faith and do its utmost to reach a comprehensive settlement in 2009, on the basis of the established United Nations parameters and body of work.

(*Signed*) Mehmet Ali **Talat**
President